

Subject:

FW: Bill 43

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Bob Bourke

It is reasonable to expect private owners of public waters such as streams, lakes, estuaries, and fish ponds to maintain these water bodies so that the broader ecosystem functions and services they provide to the community are not harmed or lost. It is everyone's responsibility to Malama na Aina. It would seem reasonable, therefore that entities such as the Honolulu Country Club or the Enchanted Lake Residents Association are required to maintain the water quality and ecosystem integrity of waters on their property. However, in most cases these water bodies are recipients of large quantities of trash, debris, and nutrients from City owned storm drains. It is not reasonable for the City to demand that a waterway be kept clear, and then to continually dump trash from its storm drains directly in the waterway.

The City's storm water permit, granted from the EPA through the State DOH in 2016, has numerous conditions and long-range pollution reduction goals which are not likely to be met given the City's lack of support for these programs. For instance, by 2024, the City is responsible for reducing the trash load to the environment from City storm drains by 50%. In 2030, this is increased to 100%. The City's goal of installing 100 curb inlet screens in the Salt Lake watershed is a step in the right direction to control the nearly 700 drain inlets in this watershed. However, it does not begin to approach the level of effluent control necessary to achieve the requirements within the permit by its expiration date in 2020, much less the 50% and 100% trash reduction goals by 2024 and 2030.

Before the City Council places conditions on private land owners, it needs to clean up its own act and stop dumping trash, debris, and nutrients into these same waters.